



**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**

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TIMOTHY K. McGUIRE, Executive Director

October 20, 2005

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative:

MAC remains opposed to section 252 of House Bill 5237 (H-1), the section of the Michigan Telecom Act that would hinder the ability of local units of government to arrange access to internet services for its businesses, residents, and other local units of government.

MAC fully supports an amendment to remove section 252 from the bill.

In lieu of full removal, MAC would support an amendment to section 252 that would define "provide" as "own and operate," that inserts the language of the Metro Act, and requires local units to use their own bid process, consider all qualified bids, and meet their own bid qualifications if the qualified bids are turned down.

MAC believes these amendments are reasonable, and would still allow for the job creation and economic development that our state so desperately needs as Michigan continues to lag behind the rest of the nation in economic recovery. The only way to bring high tech jobs to Michigan is to create a friendly environment, and we believe local governments can be part of this solution in Michigan, as they are around the country and throughout the world. Don't put the citizens of Michigan at a disadvantage to other states and nations by removing this important tool!

Sincerely,

Benjamin E. Bodkin, Legislative Coordinator
Michigan Association of Counties